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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/649,536	08/26/2003	Andrew Jeremiah Burns	2003P12748US	5435
7590	11/14/2005		EXAMINER	
Siemens Corporation Intellectual Property Department 170 Wood Avenue South Iselin, NJ 08830			HEINRICH, SAMUEL M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1725	

DATE MAILED: 11/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/649,536	BURNS ET AL.	
	Examiner Samuel M. Heinrich	Art Unit 1725	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 26 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informality: Page 3, line 27, "Patent 5,9951,892" should be –Patent 5,951,892--. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-5, 10, and 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,951,892 to Wolfla et al in view of US Patent Publication 20010037823A1 to Middelman et al for the same reasons as set forth in the last Office action. With respect to (WRT) claims 16 and 17, forming first and second grooved layers would have been obvious at the time applicant's invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art depending on the degree of build up desired for building a seal or depending on whether a first grooved layer is being rebuilt with a second top layer which requires grooves.

Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,951,892 to Wolfla et al in view of US Patent Publication 20010037823A1 to Middelman et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior art such as USPN 5,352,540 to Schienle et al. With respect to (WRT) claims 16 and 17, Schienle et al disclose (column 3, lines 9-14) forming grooved layers in order to enhance adhesion of subsequent layers and disclose (column 4, lines 25 and 26) a seal having grooves formed in a surface layer. Forming first and second grooved layers would have been obvious at the time applicant's invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art depending on the degree of build up desired for building a seal and including a coating system containing segmenting grooves in the surface layer, or depending on whether a first grooved layer is being rebuilt with a second top layer which requires grooves.

Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,951,892 to Wolfla et al in view of US Patent Publication 20010037823A1 to Middelman et al as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of JP2001144339A for the same reasons as set forth in the last Office action.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,951,892 to Wolfla et al in view of US Patent Publication 20010037823A1 to

Middelman et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of USPN 4,684,780 to Cantello et al for the same reasons as set forth in the last Office action.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed September 19, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Wolfla does not pertain to cutting a gap into a ceramic. This argument is not convincing. Wolfla et al describe forming seals known in the art as shown by U.S. Pat. No. 4,291,089; and 4,291,089 describes forming seals with a spray powder which "usually" contains metal in addition to the non-metal core. This description clearly encompasses spray powders which do not contain metal.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samuel M. Heinrich whose telephone number is 571-272-1175. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas G. Dunn can be reached on 571-272-1171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Samuel M. Heinrich
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1725

SMH